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Spruce Run

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Spruce Run Association

P. O. BOX 653 - BANGOR, MAINE 04401

Incorporated and serving the community since 1973

SERVICES FOR
ABUSED WOMEN
207/947-0496

December 1982

Vol. 9 issue 3

CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN

We are gearing up for the Capital Funds Campaign. We have hired Bud Clancy as a fundraising consultant and Lynn Gould as a general administrator. The Campaign Committee has set the goal of \$155,000 based on a combination of the mortgage cost, the costs of renovating and furnishing the house (arrived at by compiling estimates from contracts for the various jobs) and the costs of the campaign.

We are further pleased to announce that Susan Blatchford of Orrington has accepted the position of general chair of the campaign. Jan Conti has accepted the position of vice-chair, Barbara Cassidy has accepted the position of the greater Bangor special gifts division, and Margo Cobb, general manager of TV 2 WLBZ, has accepted the position of chair of communications division of the campaign. We extend a warm welcome to all of these people who will be giving their time and energy to Spruce Run.

SPECIAL FEATURE: COUNSELOR ON CALL
page 5.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

As we grow and change, we have become increasingly aware that we need to have a definite plan for our future. In the words of George Bernard Shaw, "Take care to get what you like or you will end by liking what you get." So, on Dec. 5 Spruce Run held the first of its long range planning meetings. Steering committee members, volunteers, and staff met for five hours to discuss the Spruce Run of the future. We described in detail what a typical day might be like when we are providing shelter. We listed dreams and needs for women's programming, children's programming, organizational functioning, financial policies, and fundraising.

The next step is to translate our dreams and needs into goals. Committees will be working on this step, and another long range planning session will take place to clarify goals and begin prioritizing them.

* * * * *

NEWS ON THE SHELTER

The Shelter Committee has had its nose to the grindstone! In preparation for the Capital Funds Campaign, Shelter Committee members compiled lists of renovation items, furnishings, and supplies needed to open the shelter and begin programs. The lists were prioritized, and contractor estimates for each item were obtained. Actual work on the building has begun!! Old joists in the cellar were repaired, and a new concrete wall around the bulkhead has been poured. The first goal is to bring the house up to code for fire and safety. Next the attic and walls will be insulated. Then the second floor will be renovated in hopes of opening for shelter as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, a policies and procedures subcommittee has been meeting frequently to come up with recommendations on guidelines for deciding who should be sheltered, procedures for admission, methods of payment for women who stay, and general house rules and regulations.

During the next months, the Shelter Committee will continue with renovations and will begin to fill in outlines for adults' and children's programs. Anyone with an interest in this area is encouraged to contact the Shelter Committee.

Special appreciation is due the Shelter Committee for the hard work they have been doing. In particular, Elaine, Dottie, and Lynn have spent many hours taking various tradespeople through the house to get estimates on the work that needs to be done.

WHO THE WORKERS ARE

PAT works for Community Health and Counseling Services where she initiated and ran the Lives in Transition Program which has affected over 300 people. She does assertiveness training, and workshops in self-esteem for women and conflict management. She is presently a consultant to business and industry on Mental Health Services and an assistant supervisor of the CHCS Homemakers program. She got involved with Spruce Run by doing a pro se divorce and became a member. Last year she joined the Steering Committee where she worked on the membership drive and the flea market; she is now working on the Capital Funds Campaign and is currently serving as chair of the Steering Committee. In addition to all that, she hasn't smoked a cigarette for an entire month!

RUTH completed volunteer training last March. For a while it looked as if she was going to be a full-time volunteer: she put in numerous hours each week, helped us move, hung doors, covered the hotline day and night and the office by day, photographed our every move, provided support for the staff, and participated on the By-laws and Shelter Committees. Then she became a spiritualist and got a job as a direct case worker at the Levinson Center. (She wanted to become a medium, but her mother said, "No, Ruth, you'll always be a large.") She is a healer though. She does phone coverage in the office still, is planning a hot lunch program for Thursdays, and may write a manual on "What to Do on Overnights."

MARIAN, who can't find her lunch, is the mother of two children and four cats, and is known for her nontraditional skills for organizing. She has worked for Spruce Run for three years. She began as Public Education Technician, then became Shelter Counselor and has finally bloomed in her own right as Community Education Coordinator. Her responsibilities include public speaking, training other speakers, contacting the media, counseling, advocacy, and networking. She (along with Mary C.) coordinated the police training workshops in 1981 and 1982. She has written papers: "Counseling Battered Women" and "Obstacles to Unity within the Battered Woman's Movement." She is currently the staff member doing volunteer training.

(to be cont. on page 3)

NOW'S THE TIME !

Spruce Run is looking for new counseling volunteers. We provide a free, forty-hour course in crisis counseling with an emphasis on the needs of battered women. We expect a one-year contract. Volunteers work approximately four shifts per month.

This time we are particularly interested in people who would be available in the daytime. We need more people to do office coverage to enable the staff to do the other parts of their jobs. We're also anticipating a greater need for daytime and evening counselors when we open our own shelter. If you know anyone who might be interested in our work, encourage them to call. This is an exciting time to become involved. We are accepting applications now for the January training group. Marian and Anne will be the trainers.

* * * * *

UNTITLED POEM

It was not the damage
he did with his hands
that finally made me leave

But rather that I realized
I loved him mostly for his pain
his fear,
his need of me.

I stayed not
for the loving of the bruises
(though others thought it so)
But that his all too seldom love
that visited between the blows
was all I thought I'd ever have
And all that I deserved.

Sisters:
You have told me
In your songs
your poems
your bravery
That more is due me
Than the half-a-love
I've gotten from a sad,
self-hating man.

I thank you for my freedom,
and my soul.

Anon.

RETROACTIVE TAX INDEXING

Services for battered women are currently highly dependent on the State of Maine for operating Funds. Spruce Run receives 51% of its operating budget from the Bureau of Social Services. (Other agencies for battered women around the state are funded at levels between 40% and 90%.) Spruce Run is a private, nonprofit operation. The Bureau of Social Services contract with us to purchase services for battered women.

The new tax indexing retroactivity clause will radically change this picture! The state budget must be cut by \$32,000,000 to pay for retroactivity. State contracts with Spruce Run and other private social service agencies must be broken. The governor has proposed a plan which will cut 40% from our state funding for the next 5 months. You can help by calling your legislators and expressing your concern. Call Nancy at 945-5102 for details.

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The indexing could mean a \$6,000 loss for us. What's worse, we already know that United Way's shortfall in the 1982 campaign will mean a \$2,000 cut in our approved budget between now and July 1st.

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WHO THE WORKERS ARE (cont.)

MEN'S GROUP FORMED

NANCY, a native of Nebraska, recently graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary and is serving as pastoral assistant and Director of Christian Education at the All Souls Congregational Church for the fifth year. She serves on two national church boards and has served as the facilitator for the task force on women's concerns at Bangor Theological Seminary. Currently she is facilitating a sexuality class for parents at the church. Additionally she is the mother of two boys and is enrolled as a full-time student at U.M.O. She joined a S.R. volunteer training group a year and a half ago. Since then, she has covered hotline from home and from the office, worked on the Volunteer Committee and the Policy and Procedures Committee, and been a trainer for the past two volunteer training groups.

ANNE, a former director of a group home for people who have mental retardation, a former Volvo owner, former bartender, and former long-haired person continues to be a cosmically wonderful person. She is currently a Spruce Run volunteer, a full-time graduate student, and an overnight worker at Treats Falls house. She lives with Madeline A. Mannequin, Al (a cat) and MacDuff McDog. She is also known for her nontraditional skills for organizing; it is only fitting that she is the other trainer for the upcoming volunteer training group.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS: Diane, Eloise, Elaine, Hope, Rosie and Peggy. All six of the original group are now on call. Congratulations!

A group of men in the greater Bangor area has formed Manage which will offer counseling for men who batter. A public awareness campaign will be a part of the group's activities.

Manage has had its first meeting at which several men from a variety of professions met to discuss possibilities and directions for the group. There was the acknowledgement that men are socialized to be violent, that men need to give each other permission to be nonviolent, and that some men have learned skills in conflict resolution and communication. The reason for having a group is to provide support for men from men. The support from a group breaks down social isolation and affords the opportunity to learn, practice, and model new behaviors.

Dave Davis and Don Bruce, who have in the past held groups in this area for men who batter, are prime movers in the formation of this group. Chris Hamilton will also be an important part of these sessions. We are excited about it and hope you will be too. If you are a man or know a man who might be interested in finding out more about Manage, call Dave Davis at the Extension Office 942-7396.

* * * * *

(MY HOPE FOR THE BATTERED WOMAN'S MOVEMENT is that we continue to) "speak out, educate ourselves, develop an analysis, take action, build coalitions, be courageous, communicate, be loving and keep in touch with our spirituality, respect each other's differences, take care of ourselves, be persistent, prepare for the long haul, be hopeful, and have vision." Eva Jefferson Patterson

WHAT WE DO

Spruce Run is a non-profit organization that provides services to women in crisis and abused women. Though our offices are now in the house, we are not yet sheltering women. We do make referrals to shelter when it is needed. Counseling is available by phone 24 hours a day and is geared to the needs of the battered woman. We also give information about and make referrals to other services. We provide information about protective orders and pro se divorce. We encourage women to advocate for themselves, but we do provide advocacy when it's needed. Through our community education program we familiarize people with our services, the causes of domestic violence, the issues involved, and directions for change.

* * * * *

WHAT DO YOUR LEGISLATORS KNOW???

Many newly elected men and women from Penobscot and Hancock counties will be joining the work of the 111th Maine Legislature after the holidays. The next legislative session will consider funding for domestic violence services and other services which affect the lives of battered women and low-income women.

Part I of the budget includes \$234,000 per year for statewide D.V. services. This figure represents the current level of funding. Part 2 of the budget proposes an additional \$100,000 per year. The State Coalition is meeting in December and January to consider an allocation plan for use of this proposed increase.

This is an important time of year to contact your legislators and ask about their familiarity with Spruce Run, domestic violence issues and statewide funding. Do they know what Spruce Run is? Do they know what our services are? Do they know what towns we serve? Do they know about domestic violence? Do they know the number of families it affects? Do they understand the needs of battered women and their families? Do they need any additional information about Spruce Run or domestic violence? Please contact your legislators soon. Help them learn about us so that they may make informed decisions in Augusta.

STEERING COMMITTEE CHANGES

At the annual meeting in September six new steering committee members were elected, and four members "retired." We would like to express our appreciation to the members who have served us so well over the past years. We will miss you. Mary McPherson has a new job as a field investigator for the Maine Human Rights Commission. She works out of Augusta, covering northern Maine. She has worked long and hard for Spruce Run, serving as chair of the Steering Committee over the past year. Additionally she was a member of the Shelter Committee in its early stages and remains a member of the By-laws Committee. We appreciate her quest for fairness in the world and perfection in whoopie pies.

Lynne Mansur has moved with all her earthly possessions including her Big Bird alarm clock to York County and is now a private consultant working out of Alfred, Maine. Lynne served as treasurer of the Steering Committee last year and spent many hours with the staff as we developed our new staffing pattern. Her relaxed Mansur manner has always added perspective. She, too, will remain a member of the hard-working By-laws Committee.

Ruth Nadelhaft has recently become a member of the negotiating team for the faculty union for the University of Maine system. This, in addition to her job as an English professor at BCC, has consumed an enormous amount of her time. As a member of the Steering Committee and of the Community Education Committee she helped with the proposal to the Junior League. She and Jerry also worked on the police training project. We will miss her questioning point of view and expertise as an editor.

Barbara Kamm has found that her full time job and a full time family have taken over her extra time. While on the Steering Committee she served as a member of the Community Education Committee, and several hiring committees. She also worked on the membership drive for two years. We appreciate the continuing support that we receive from her and her husband Patrick.

Welcome to our newly elected members who are already hard at work: Brenda Gainer, Joan Marks, Lynn Greenleaf, Hope Burns, and Mary Louis Kurr. Susan Dunn Nichols is returning to the Steering Committee in January.

COUNSELOR ON CALL IN THE SPRUCE RUN OFFICE

It's Monday morning and Connie is the counselor on call. That means she's the primary person who will answer the hotline, take crisis calls and talk to women in crisis who walk into our office. Sue is her "backup". Sue will answer the phone and the door when Connie is already on a call or working with someone in the office. She will also be available as a consultant to the counselor on call.

8:30 am: Connie arrives at the office. Sue is already there and has turned the heat up and plugged in the water for tea. Connie checks the answering machine. There are seven calls: five of them were dial tone, one was Tracey, who had been on call Sunday night, reporting that she'd had no calls, and one was a woman named Doris (name changed) who asked to be called and left a number. Connie then checks the client files to update herself, keeping an eye out for the name of the woman whose call was on the machine.

8:45 am: The business line rings and Sue answers it. It's Gail calling in to report on whom she talked with while on call Friday night. She had two calls from women who may come into the office today. Sue records the pertinent information.

8:50 am: Connie returns the call to Doris who left her number on the machine. A man answers the phone and says there's no Doris there.

8:55 am: Connie makes a note to try Doris later. She also makes a list - "get volunteer schedules, get copies of shelter committee report, water plants, talk to Marian about speaking engagement at Hampden Academy..."

9:00 am: The crisis line rings. Connie answers. A woman who's planning to get a pro se divorce wants to know if she needs to sign the bottom line before having her husband served; she also wonders if maybe she should use irreconcilable differences instead of cruel and abusive treatment for her grounds. Connie briefly describes the difference between the two and asks what happened to make her want a divorce. The woman, who prefers not to tell her name, starts to explain how her husband always seems angry and doesn't seem to care about her feelings or how he makes the kids feel. He even killed the dog right in front of them and though he never hit the kids, he made them sit in chairs without moving for hours at a time and if she spoke up for them, he told her it was her fault they were turning into sissies. They were all terrified of him, but he never really hurt the kids, but he did push her around a lot and tried to choke her a couple of times, but if she uses cruel and abusive treatment as grounds for divorce, it might make him madder, and then he might get a lawyer and try to take the kids. The woman bursts into tears....

9:05 am: As Connie continues to listen, Marian and Nancy arrive. Nancy checks the log and her mailbox and starts pulling things from her files to work on the state contract. Marian checks the log and her mailbox and claims the typewriter so she

Counselor on call (continued)

can work on the newsletter.

9:15 am: The business line rings. Sue answers. It's Ruth calling to say that she has a new evening job and can't be on call the rest of the month. She's really sorry and would be glad to help out however she can.

9:25 am: The business line rings. Sue answers. (Connie is still on her original call.) It's Joan checking on the date and time of the next Steering Committee meeting.

9:35 am: The business line rings. Sue answers. It's Lynn, calling to report client contact on Saturday. A woman named Doris had called, extremely frightened, a long history of abuse, but had never been afraid she was going to die before. Something had changed. Her husband had suddenly started describing in detail how she was going to die. Lynn spent two hours talking with her, exploring what she wanted to do and how she might do it. Finally she remembered a friend in New Hampshire that her husband didn't know who would probably let her stay there temporarily. Fortunately she had a car and enough money to buy gas to get there. The friend was agreeable and that was her plan.

10:00 am: The business line rings. Sue still hasn't finished filling in the client files, but answers because Connie is still on the other call. It's a student who wants to do a paper on Spruce Run and battered women. Marian takes the call.

10:25 am: A man walks in; Pine Tree Legal Services told him to come here "to get a divorce". Sue explains that we don't do divorces, but we do have a pro se divorce manual which tells how to do your own divorce. The man would like to read it, so he sits down and Sue offers to answer any questions he might have.

10:40 am: Connie's call with the anonymous woman is finished. She decided during the course of the call that what she really needed was safety for herself and her children. Connie gave her information about the protection from abuse act, the Bangor shelter and other shelters around the state; she helped her explore other options she might have, such as friends and family who could help in various ways. At the end of the call, she wasn't exactly sure, but protection from abuse sounded the best because he probably wouldn't want to be arrested or have a police record. She really did hate to involve the police, but maybe that would be the best thing because she wanted to stay in the house, after all, why should she and the kids be the ones who have to leave? Her agreement was to come to the office today or tomorrow to look at the kind of papers she would have to fill out. They would be okay for a couple of days because his brother from out of state was visiting and her husband was always on good behavior around other people. Connie fills out a file.

10:50 am: The crisis line rings. Connie answers. It's a woman from International

Counselor on call (continued)

Home Magazine letting us know that the mail service between Mass. and Maine has been bad and perhaps the Sanfords, Inez and Ron, don't realize that their subscription has run out. Connie tells her who we are and that we never were subscribers.

11:00 am: The business line rings, Connie answers. It's the contract officer in Augusta. Nancy takes the call. Connie resumes working on the client files and makes a mental note that Peggy was on call Sunday and we haven't yet heard from her.

11:05 am: The crisis line rings. Connie answers. It's Peggy, who's been trying to call in all morning. She had no calls on Sunday.

11:10 am: The business line rings. Connie answers. It's a woman named Judy who's interested in being a volunteer. Connie explains the volunteer job duties, that we are currently particularly interested in people who are available in the daytime, that we offer a forty hour training course, expect a year contract, etc.

11:15 am: The man who's been reading the pro se manual leaves. He asked Sue if she thought he had grounds because his wife moved someone else right in and had been taking drugs and had thrown his clothes right out on the sidewalk. She explained the different kinds of grounds, and he thought he probably had grounds because his wife had been pretty bad to him.

11:25 am: The crisis line rings. Connie is putting a volunteer application into an envelope; she answers the phone. It's a police officer from the Bangor Police Department who wants to bring a woman named Sarah to our office a little later. He explains that the woman was beaten last night and called the police this morning after her husband left for his job at the university. The policeman is going to take her to the hospital emergency room to have her injuries checked. The officer says she seems pretty confused. He hopes she'll get protective orders, but doesn't know if she will. Want to know if we'd be willing to talk to her if she's not hospitalized. Connie explains that we'd be glad to talk to her if she wants to talk to us, that even if she is hospitalized, she could call us or someone might be able to go there and talk with her. The officer says he'll bring her by later or call if she ends up in the hospital. Connie looks through the client files to see if we have a file on Sarah. We don't. She makes out a third party intake sheet.

11:51 am: Nancy wants to discuss the new definition of counseling that the department is considering. It means developing a new form for gathering statistics and she wants Connie's ideas. Connie reminds Nancy that Marian is now doing stats, but she will talk about it, too, if there aren't any calls. Marian joins the discussion.

12:00 am: The business line rings. Sue answers it. It's someone about servicing

Counselor on call (continued)

a copying machine. Sue gives them the number of the capital campaign office.

12:10 pm: The business line rings. Connie says she'd better meet about the stats sheet later; maybe they can set a time after this call. She answers the phone.

It's Pam who's on call this afternoon and has noticed that it's pouring. Says she'd be willing to come in 45 minutes early if someone could give her a ride. Connie puts Pam on HOLD and asks who has a car and whether anyone could give Pam a ride under the circumstances. Sue says she needs to go make a deposit at the Bank anyway, so she could pick her up. Connie relays that information.

12:20 pm: Connie, Marian, Sue and Nancy look at their calenders and decide there's no good time to meet about the statistics sheet, maybe we can put it off until the staff meeting on Thursday.

12:25 pm: Anne, a volunteer, walks in. She has a meeting with Marian about training at 1:00, but came early to visit and see how things are going. Marian remembers that Anne needs to be interviewed for this month's newsletter because none of the information from the last interview is applicable. Anyway, the newsletter had come to halt half an hour earlier due to office activity. Sue leaves. Nancy will be back up while Sue gets Pam.

12:30 pm: The business line rings. Connie answers. It's Sam for Sue. "Sue's not in, can she return your call?" "Yes, please."

12:35 pm: Connie thinks about lunch. Pam, the counselor on call for the afternoon, should be here soon. Connie looks at her watch. She'd really like a pepsi and maybe some Chinese food. She checks her list of things to do and adds Christmas shopping items to her list. She realizes that no one has talked about office gifts this year....

12:45 pm: Sue returns with Pam. Connie greets them and asks Pam how she's been. Pam responds with a joke and adds that she is available for stand up comedy, bar mitzvahs, valentine parties, etc.

12:50 pm: Connie laughs and tells her about Sarah who may be coming in this afternoon. She also suggests that she read the client files from the weekend in case we hear from one of those women sometime today. Pam sits down with the files.

1:00 pm: The phone rings. Pam answers. She's now the counselor on call.

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OUR FUNDING SOURCES

The State of Maine Bureau of Social Services
The United Way of Penobscot Valley
Local fundraising
Membership dues and donations from individuals
Donations from churches, clubs, and other
groups concerned with social issues
In-kind donations: time, supplies, rummage,
labor, space, or baked items.
All donations are tax deductible.

The Spruce Run newsletter is published periodically. We welcome news items, and your comments. To submit items or to obtain additional copies, write to Marian Allen, editor, at Spruce Run, P.O. Box 653, Bangor, Maine 04401.

Thanks to Ginny Wallace-Whitaker for her help on this newsletter.